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News Release

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1,000th Silos Canister Produced

CINCINNATI - Fluor Fernald, the contractor responsible for cleaning up the 1,050-acre former uranium production plant for the Department of Energy (DOE), reached a milestone today with the production of the 1,000th canister of treated Silos 1 and 2 waste. Each canister contains radioactive waste once stored for over 50 years in two earthened-bermed concrete silos.

"I am proud of the hard work and commitment that has gone into producing the first 1,000 canisters. Technical issues always arise when starting a new, large-scale treatment operation. Our team has worked through those challenges while safely dealing with both the radiological and industrial hazards associated with the treatment process. Our workers will be the first to tell you that while it is quite an accomplishment to produce the first 1,000, they will not let up until the final canister safely leaves the Fernald Site," said Fluor Fernald Closure Project Director Con Murphy.

A $170 million treatment facility is designed to blend the waste with flyash and cement as a means of stabilizing it for safe transport and eventual disposal. The waste is blended one batch at a time with approximately 10,000 pounds of slurried waste (3,500 pounds dry) and 4,000 pounds of cement and flyash loaded in each canister. After several hours the mix hardens creating a concrete monolith inside the steel vessel. Each canister is made of ½-inch thick, steel and stands 6 1/2 – feet tall with a 6-foot diameter. A loaded canister weighs nearly 20,000 pounds. Since June 6, 2005 Fluor Fernald and waste carrier Visionary Solutions have been safely shipping treated Silos material to Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Andrews County Texas for storage. Each flatbed truck leaving Fernald carries two loaded canisters. To date, Fluor Fernald has shipped 682 of an estimated 4,000 canisters to WCS.

Operators staff the Silos Remediation Facility 24-hours a day, seven days a week. On a typical day about 20 canisters of waste are produced through three treatment lines. Operators carefully monitor the waste blending and loading operations through a shielded control room. The process is automated, but operators serve as the final quality control check from the moment the waste is pumped into the mixing tanks until the canisters are secured on the custom designed flatbed trailers. A team of 30 radiation technicians supports the Silos Project and carefully monitors each container once the waste is loaded and sealed. All containers meet strict Department of Transportation standards for low-level radioactive waste shipments.

Approximately 90 trucks a week now leave Fernald carrying treated Silo waste. Treatment and shipping operations are expected to be complete in February 2006 at which time the Remediation Facility and Radon Control System will be turned over for demolition. Aside from

a water treatment plant which will continue to clean the Fernald aquifer after site closure and the On-Site Disposal Facility, demolition of the Silos Remediation Facility and support structures represent the last stages of the cleanup. Once the building debris has been shipped off site, environmental technicians will certify the Silos footprint meets established soil cleanup levels. Today, 70 percent of the entire site has been certified clean by Fluor Fernald environmental restoration technicians with concurrence from Ohio and US EPA's.

Fluor Fernald expects to complete the cleanup, soil certification and site restoration by spring 2006. The DOE's Office of Legacy Management will be responsible for the long-term care of the site once cleanup is complete.

For electronic images of the Fernald Silos Project go to: ftp://ftp.fernald.gov/Public/K65%20Shipments/

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